

Collaboration with Undergraduate Research Office to Create “Join the Research Conversation” Workshop

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NUTRITION INFORMATION

The Join the Research Conversation workshop introduces students to undergraduate research and supports them in the difficult task of identifying potential faculty research mentors on campus through the context of Scholarship as a Conversation. It is one offering of a multifaceted collaborative partnership with the Undergraduate Research Office that includes: other workshops; library hosting the fall research forum and winning posters from the larger spring undergraduate research forum; and peer mentors staffing a table in the library near the reference desk for 10 hours a week for most weeks of the semester to help students get started in research.

COOKING TIME

Workshop duration is 75 minutes.

DIETARY GUIDELINES

Both librarians and offices of undergraduate research support research, yet collaborations between the two groups do not come naturally. One challenge is the word “research” and its meaning in the two different contexts. In a library, research generally means searching, selecting, and using literature. In an undergraduate research context, research is “an inquiry or inves-

tigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline.” (Council on Undergraduate Research, n.d.) The literature, or library, research is only a small part of this research.

ACRL FRAMEWORK ADDRESSED

The Framework for Information Literacy and specifically the concept of Scholarship as a Conversation provide a useful metaphor for connecting information literacy, including and beyond traditional library instruction, to the undergraduate research experience.

MAIN INGREDIENTS

- ☐ Classroom or meeting room (can be held in residence hall lounge)
- ☐ Ask students to bring their own devices
- ☐ iPads or laptops for those who don’t have own a device
- ☐ Undergraduate Research Office (URO) staff member
- ☐ Handouts from URO
- ☐ Worksheet for hands-on portion

PREPARATION

Connect with your local Undergraduate Research Office or equivalent. This workshop is most effective when both the library and that office are full participants.

MAIN COOKING TECHNIQUE

1. Begin session with an upper-class student involved in Undergraduate Research sharing their experiences, focusing on why it has been valuable to them and how they got started.
2. Librarian provides a short presentation explaining how research is like a conversation by asking students to recall different types of conversations they have had, including in-person and written conversations. Ask students if conversations can happen over time.
3. Explain that they can look through publications in the academic literature. Pass out screen-shots of citation maps from Web of Science. Ask students what they represent.
4. Guided by a worksheet, students brainstorm keywords that describe their interest. Using their own device or one provided by the library, students use Scopus or Web of Science to identify individuals at their institution who have published research in areas of their interest.
5. As students are working, the librarian and the URO staff member are checking in with the students, answering questions, and providing tips. It is often during this time that powerful, personalize instruction happens.

6. Students identify a next action for themselves to get involved in undergraduate research.

CHEF'S NOTE

Other approaches to working with Undergraduate Research offices through the lens of the frame Scholarship as Conversation were discussed in *Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Partnering with Undergraduate Research Offices to Present Scholarship as a Conversation* at the LOEX conference on May 6, 2016. The presentation is posted at http://www.loexconference.org/presentations/LOEX2016_Neighbors%20Helping%20Neighbors.pdf.

WORKS CITED

Council on Undergraduate Research. (n.d.) Frequently Asked Questions. Retrieved from http://www.cur.org/about_cur/frequently_asked_questions_/#2.